

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1245

By Marsh

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Peggy Groce McDaniel Bevels.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Peggy Groce McDaniel Bevels, the first female mayor of Lincoln County, who will be fondly remembered for "her integrity, kindness, tenacity, and love for Lincoln County"; and

WHEREAS, first appointed by the county commission after the resignation of the previous mayor, Peggy Groce Bevels was elected to the county's top leadership post in 2008 and reelected in 2010; she was seeking her third term as mayor when she succumbed to illness in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bevels was renowned for introducing tax increment financing as an economic development tool in Lincoln County, securing state and local support for extending public water to difficult-to-reach areas, and helping found Hamburger Day on the Hill, a tradition started in 1986 that was recently celebrated with the General Assembly for the thirty-third time; and

WHEREAS, she was also instrumental in making sewer improvements at Highland Rim and Unity schools, promoting growth through the acquisition of Runway Centre, and facilitating groundwork that helped draw hotels to Fayetteville, and she strongly supported the Motlow College Fayetteville Center; and

WHEREAS, perhaps foremost among Peggy Bevels's many trailblazing accomplishments was the establishment of the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Museum and Civic Center, which she served as president for its first twenty-two years; and

WHEREAS, a thirty-year veteran of local politics, Peggy Groce Bevels was first elected to the Lincoln County Commission in 1986 and ably represented her constituents in District 2 for twenty-one years before becoming county mayor; and

WHEREAS, she was particularly interested in training and was the first Lincoln County commissioner to become certified as a public administrator by the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, on the state level, Mayor Bevels served as president of three key organizations: the Tennessee County Services Association (TCSA), the Tennessee County Commissioners Association, and the Tennessee Association of County Mayors; she was Tennessee's representative to the National Association of Counties and chairperson of the area Homeland Security Council; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Mayor Bevels was selected as the Robert M. Wormsley Outstanding County Official of the Year by TCSA, thus becoming the first woman and only the tenth county official to receive such award; and

WHEREAS, she was honored by the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce in 2014 as its Individual of the Year; and

WHEREAS, a woman of many talents and interests, Mayor Bevels was a graduate of Leadership Lincoln, a member of the Boonshill Family and Community Education Club, Petersburg Lions Club, and Fayetteville Rotary Club; an honorary member of the Boonshill Fire Department; and a charter member of the Lincoln County Humane Society and Lincoln County Area Crime Stoppers; and

WHEREAS, described as "a sweet and caring individual with a charming and engaging personality," Peggy Groce Bevels was a native of Lincoln County, a longtime resident of the Boonshill community, and a member of the Cyruston Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, she began her professional career working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at Marshall Space Flight Center, where she served as an administrative

manager who was responsible for presenting budgets to Dr. Werner von Braun, and she received many honors from the great man; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Bevels was preceded in death by her parents, Robert Lee and Lula Buntley Groce; husbands, Billy George McDaniel and Virgil Bevels; son, Mark Edwin McDaniel; daughter, Rhonda Bevels; brothers, Ray Gene Groce and Glen Groce; and sister, Jewell Groce McNatt; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her son-in-law, Dean Bevels; grandchildren, Courtney Norris (Derek) Englett and Justin "Bert" (Chelsey) Norris; great-grandchildren, Weston Englett, Brantley Englett, Beckett Norris, and Lucy Norris; stepsons, Mike (Nancy) Bevels and Kim Bevels; and stepdaughter, Sandy Bevels DeVaney; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Groce McDaniel Bevels was a woman of rare ability and unwavering commitment who served her beloved Lincoln County with distinction, and we wish to pay tribute to her life of purpose and accomplishment on this sad occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Peggy Groce McDaniel Bevels, the first female mayor of Lincoln County, reflecting fondly upon her hard work and many groundbreaking initiatives to promote growth and prosperity in the county.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our sympathy and condolences to the family and many friends and colleagues of Mayor Bevels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.